

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION.—VIII.

“NOTES ON THE NURSING OF AN ACTUAL MEDICAL OR SURGICAL CASE, WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN NURSING DETAILS OF A FUTURE SIMILAR CASE.”

BY ALICE POPE, M.B.N.A.

MATHIAS F., aged twenty-nine, was a patient under my charge, and entered the Hospital Ships, Long Reach, near Dartford, Kent, on September 18, 1887, suffering from confluent small-pox. His home was at Derby, but he came to London to seek work, and succeeded in getting employment at an iron foundry, and was at work five weeks, up till Tuesday, September 13.

On that day he complained of pains in his head

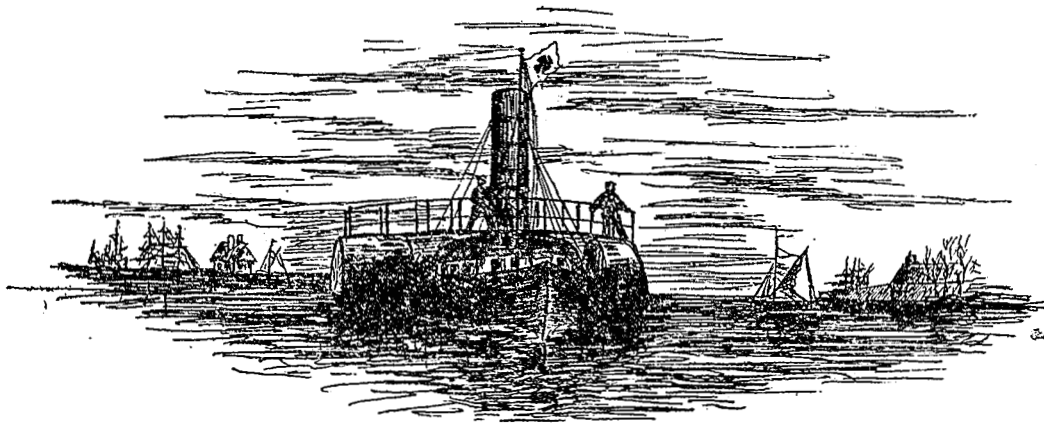
The Nurse there had a bed ready to receive him. Some warm beef-tea was given him.

The steamer then started on the journey to the ships, and arrived the same evening, the voyage lasting about an hour and a-half.

The steamer was drawn up to the landing-stage by the side of the ship, and two of the male Staff, taking with them a low cane chair, with two handles back and front, carried the patient to the Receiving Room. His own clothes were taken off, and a soft shirt put on; he was then carried to the lift, and taken up to the Ward, and put into bed, and a warm drink of milk given him.

On admission, he had an early vesicular eruption, confluent on the face, limbs, and back. It was discrete, but very abundant, on the front of the trunk. Temp. 100. He was prostrate, his breathing quick and short, and his skin moist.

It was doubtful whether he had been vaccinated



and back, of his throat feeling sore, and feet aching very much.

On the 15th of September he noticed a rash on his face.

On the 16th and 17th his symptoms were the same, but the eruption had appeared on other parts of the body.

The following day one of the M. A. B. ambulances, with a Nurse, a porter, and a coachman, arrived at the place where he lodged; patient was pinned up in blankets, and removed on a stretcher to a bed inside the ambulance, the Nurse accompanying him.

During the journey, by road, to the wharf, milk was given him.

On arriving at the wharf, the ambulance was driven inside the gates up to the end of the pier; he was then taken out on the stretcher, and carried down the pier to the river ambulance steamer lying alongside, and put on a bed in the Hospital.

in infancy; he did not know, and the abundance of the eruption on his arms obscured any scars there might have been.

Warm water, towels, and soap were brought to the bedside. His hair was cut off quite close, and he was washed all over. All the parts on which the eruption was confluent were painted with pulv. cretæ aromatic. mixed into a thin paste with water, and washed off each time before repainting, every night and morning. His eyes were bathed and syringed repeatedly with lukewarm water, injected inside the eye-lids; and throat sprayed repeatedly with permanganate of potash lotion.

He was on low diet, consisting of beef-tea, milk, bread, butter, and tea.

He spent a restless night, but took his food fairly well. M. T. 99-6.

Menthol oil—two table-spoonfuls every four hours—was given him, and also one ounce of lime-water after the oil.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)